lement, without reference to the CEA, schemes of public utilities costing upto Rs. 5 crores. Specific proposals in respect of captive generating units in the co-operative sector can, as and when received be considered on merits.

Mismanagement in Salal Hydro Power Project

1278. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of the gross malpractices and mismanagement by the project authorities, a number of mishaps occurred in the Salal Hydro Electric Power Project of the NHPC resulting in delay of over 10 years in its completion, besides tremendous cost escalation to the extent of over 800 per cent;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any indepth inquiry with regard to working of the management and the entire process of the completion of the projects;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether in view of the finding of the inquiry, Government propose to hold a judicial probe into the whole affairs; if so, what steps have been taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Time and cost over run on the Salal Hydro Electric Project have occurred *inter-alia* on account of changes in designs and increase in the scope of work, unanticipated geo-technical problems in the foundation of the concrete dam, geological surprises, encountering of major shear zones surcharged with water in the Tailrace Tunnel and flash foods during March, 1984 and again in July, 1986. The generating capacity being installed was raised from 270 MW to 345 MW. All major works on the projects are now in an advanced stage of completion.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of programme Implementation has commissioned an indepth study of a few major on-going projects, including the Salal Hydro-electric Project, to examine the principal causes of time and cost overruns and suggest remedial measures. The measures indicated in the interim Report of the Study have been taken into consideration by the Salal Project authorities. The final report which has also since been received contains recommendations regarding such aspects as the imperative need for detailed soil investigations framing of realistic cost and time estimates schedules, freezing of the project concept and confirmity of the top management. A judicial enquiry is not contemplated.

Non-conventional energy

1279. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what revenue is saved annually by utilising solar and other non-conventional source of energy as a substitute to the conventional source of energy; and

(b) what expenses Government have made so far for the promotion of the use of solar and other non-conventional sources of energy?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Utilisation of solar and other non-conventional sources of energy such as biogas, improved chulhas, wind energy, etc. is estimated to be resulting in a saving of fuel and fertiliser equivalent to about Rs. 240.00 crores annually at present.

(b) A total sum of Rs. 230 crores has been spent for development as well as utilisation of solar and other non-conventional sources of energy during the last three years, i.e. 1983-84 to 1985-86.

New power generation scheme

1280. SHRI NARESH C. PUGALIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for taking up